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the senior officers were not acquainted with the common drill of the battalion, much less with the movements of a brigade or army. Taylor himself could not form a brigade into line. Speaking of the volunteers of the Western states whom he was detailed to muster out of the service, he gives this parting shot: "It is vain to deny it: these troops are unworthy the name of soldiers. The officers are, for the most part, little better than the men." He pays his respects to the "mushroom" generals who owed all the reputation they made to the regular army, which many pretended to despise.

The decision to retain McDowell's Corps for the defense of Washington in 1862 seems to be traceable to Hitchcock's advice. He claims credit for urging Lincoln to send to Grant for troops to oppose Early's advance on Washington in 1864. Swinton was furnished by him with much of his material for his attacks on McClellan, which may perhaps by this means be indirectly traced to Stanton also. While acting as president of the Fitz-John Porter court, General Hitchcock wrote in his diary: "He ought to be shot."

Although General Hitchcock was an accomplished soldier he often confesses to a lack of enthusiasm for his profession and declares that his chief enjoyment is in metaphysical and esoteric studies of which he published eight large volumes.

The various Indian wars in which he engaged he considers unjust, cruel, and oppressive; the battle of Ash Hollow he calls a "bloody massacre"; the Mexican War an "unholy and iniquitous proceeding".

EBEN SWIFT.

*Memoirs of Gustave Koerner, 1809-1896.* Life-sketches written at the suggestion of his children. In two volumes. By THOMAS J. MCCORMACK. (Cedar Rapids, Iowa: The Torch Press. 1909. Pp. xv, 628; xii, 768.)

AMERICAN students of history, who have properly concerned themselves with the details of seventeenth-century colonization, have not yet conceived in adequate perspective the contributions made to our American civilization by the colonists of the nineteenth century. When the future historian comes to gather his material for these studies, he will surely learn much from the statistician, the genealogist, and the "filio-pietistic" champions of particular ethnic elements. But for genuine insight he must depend largely upon the "life histories" of typical men, remembering always that their importance is not wholly determined by the prominence of the individual selected. The very eminence of such men as Schurz and Villard, the range of their interests and associations, lessen to a certain degree their significance as representatives of the distinctly German group. From this point of view the life of a typical German-American leader like Koerner has a peculiar value. In his experiences, his ideals, and his prejudices, in his reaction

to the new American environment, he is a genuine representative of many thousands of his fellow-countrymen.

At many points the career of Koerner challenges comparison with that of Schurz. Koerner was born in Frankfort in 1809, Schurz, twenty years later in Rhenish Prussia. Both passed their student days and came to manhood under the influence of radical agitation. As youthful revolutionist and refugee, Koerner shared in the political movements of the early thirties, as Schurz did in those of 1848 and 1849. Both coming to the United States as young men identified themselves resolutely with the life of their adopted country, Koerner in Illinois and Schurz in Wisconsin. In the autumn of 1852, the year in which Schurz came to the United States, Koerner, after a successful record as lawyer, member of the legislature, and judge of the state supreme court, was elected lieutenant-governor of Illinois on the Democratic ticket. A few years later Koerner's anti-slavery convictions carried him out of the Democratic ranks and made him one of the founders of the Republican party. Schurz, coming to Wisconsin at a time when the old party lines were breaking, threw himself so vigorously into the Republican campaign of 1856 that, in 1857, the Wisconsin Republicans followed the Illinois precedent and made him their candidate for lieutenant-governor.

Both men participated in the Lincoln-Douglas contest of 1858, Koerner as chairman of the state convention which nominated Lincoln. Both sat in the Chicago Convention of 1860 and both as members of the Committee on Resolutions stood not only for Republican principles on the slavery issue but also for generous recognition of the foreign-born voter. They were divided, however, on the question of the candidate; Koerner went with his state for Lincoln, while Schurz was for Seward. During the war both held somewhat confidential relations with Lincoln who found Koerner's diplomacy useful at a critical moment with the Germans of Missouri. Koerner had no such conspicuous military career as Schurz, though he rendered some service in the preliminary organization of the Illinois volunteers. Both played minor parts in the diplomatic history of the Civil War as ministers to Spain.

In the Reconstruction period, both were antagonistic to Johnson and his presidential policy. During Grant's administration, Koerner, like Schurz, gradually became dissatisfied with the Republican "organization" and entered actively into the Liberal Republican movement of 1872. He was chairman of the Illinois delegation at the Cincinnati Convention and subsequently the Liberal Republican candidate for governor. In the difficult situation which confronted the Liberals in 1876, Koerner, influenced perhaps by earlier Democratic associations, decided for Tilden and resented strongly Schurz's support of Hayes.

Both men valued highly their German inheritance, but Koerner's activity and interests were much more largely within the German-American group, though he was never in sympathy with the promoters of the "German State" idea. Thus his journalistic contributions were

largely to German papers, while Schurz though also conspicuous in German-American journalism reached a wider public through the columns of *Harper's Weekly*. Schurz planned for his more permanent literary products the lives of Clay and Lincoln and a never-realized history of the United States, but Koerner's closest interest was in the history and mission of his own German-American stock. To such studies he made a solid contribution in his *Das Deutsche Element*.

Some limitations of these memoirs are frankly indicated by Dr. McCormack in his editorial notes. Recollections of youth and early manhood written down in extreme old age must obviously be used with caution. It should be said, however, that Koerner was throughout his life in the habit of keeping rather voluminous records of various sorts, including letters and a fragmentary diary. These are freely drawn upon for certain parts of his narrative. "The original manuscript not having been accessible", the printed text has been taken with some "rectifying" from a manuscript copy. The result would have been more satisfactory from the historian's point of view, if this "rectifying" had been more specifically indicated. The book is rather long for the general reader but even those outside the circle of kinship will enjoy some glimpses of a simple and pleasant family life, typically German in its usages and *Weltanschauung*.

In this book the reader may see the changing scenes of American society and politics as they appeared to a representative citizen of foreign birth, who brought with him from his native country the memory of actual participation in one of the great political movements of the century and, living all his life in a distinctly German-American community, preserved in large measure a distinctive point of view of which the future historian must take account.

*Retrospections of an Active Life.* In three volumes. By JOHN BIGELOW. (New York: The Baker and Taylor Company. 1909. Pp. xiv, 645; vii, 607; vii, 684.)

A NEW ENGLANDER by descent but born November 25, 1817, at Malden, now Bristol, in Ulster County, New York, Mr. Bigelow is well advanced in his ninety-third year. He betook himself to the city of New York in 1835, where as a student of law he sat at a desk in a building on the corner of Cedar and Nassau streets, on the site at present occupied by the Bank of Commerce. His acquaintance with the city of his adoption, its inhabitants, and its development thus covers a period of no less than seventy-five years. Admitted to the New York bar in 1838, after ten years of not over-active practice thereat, he, in the fall of the year 1848, at the suggestion of William Cullen Bryant, became the owner of a part interest in the *Evening Post* newspaper, and its working editor. Acquiring what he regarded as a competency, he subsequently in 1861 withdrew from journalistic work, but only to be appointed in August of the same year United States consul at Paris.